

Valley Voice

For all the



Friends of
Braidburn Valley Park

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Message from the Chair

We wish to record our sincere thanks to Lucy Frankel who has edited a colourful Valley Voice for several years, although now living in Italy. We are delighted to welcome Oscar Tollast as our new editor.



Hitting the right notes: Brass at Braidburn

Dust off the cobwebs, mow the grass, and check the acoustics. For the first time in approximately 80 years, Braidburn Valley Park's open-air theatre will host a concert.

On **Saturday 1 August**, between **1 pm and 3 pm**, park visitors will be treated to a free afternoon performance by the **Edinburgh Brass Band**.

The Band, which formed in 2011, has a diverse range of backgrounds and is expected to play a mix of popular and traditional music.

We hope this is the first of many similar events to take place on stage in the future. So, pack some snacks, bring a blanket, and help us make this a community event to remember!



Tea in the Park 2026

This is your reminder that this year's Tea in the Park will take place on **Saturday 29 August**, with events starting at **1 pm**. Join us for traditional stalls, home baking, a dog show, and the much anticipated rubber duck races!





Remembering Anne Morham

We're sad to hear that Anne Morham, a Life Member of the Friends of Braidburn Valley Park, has passed away aged 104.

Throughout her life, Anne made many contributions towards the park, helping to shape it into what it is today.

In 1935, Anne was a Young Leader with the Guides, Brownies, and Rangers. She joined others who planted the cherry tree trefoil in the park to mark King George V's Silver Jubilee. More than 400 trees are said to have been planted!

Over the years, she continued to participate in the life of the park. Her contributions including planting the first daffodil bulbs at the north of the park; planting new avenues of cherry trees



(in the snow) on the Girl Guiding Centenary; planting the David Wright Community Orchard in 2015 and replacing the cherry trees in 2019. Our thoughts are with Anne's loved ones.

Membership matters: Keeping connected

Thank you to the **196 members** who have renewed their subscription. If you haven't, please don't delay!

Please consider setting up a standing order for future payments. It makes administration painless and is one less thing for you to remember. Our bank details can be found online.

We still have 14 members we are unable to reach by email. If this is you and you'd

like to re-establish contact, just email membership@braidburnvalleypark.org.uk

For those yet to join, becoming a Friend involves paying **£3-5 a year**: the price of a coffee or two. This helps us fund a range of projects to enhance the park and continue making it a space for current and future generations to enjoy.

Read on to learn other ways in which you can support the park.





Many hands make light work in April

In April, we held one of our biannual cleanups. The fact that the park appears to be so much tidier nowadays is due to the efforts of the Friends and volunteers.

On this occasion, we still managed to gather a satisfying amount of litter, complete one or two other volunteering tasks, and recruit a few new Friends.

Thank you to all who joined. To register your interest in future volunteering opportunities, please email volunteering@braidburnvalleypark.org.uk

Rooting for The Conservation Volunteers

Did you know the Parks Management Team is liaising with a charity called The Conservation Volunteers to do significant work in Braidburn Valley Park? Last year, for example, you might have noticed the dead hedging by the burn in various places together with extra wildflower areas, visible in the autumn.

This year, the group has focused on the southern end of the park. Providing an update, The Conservation Volunteers told us: "The recent work has been mainly focused on early habitat preparation and meadow management, helping set the conditions for wildflowers and

pollinators to establish well. We're aiming to let the site respond naturally where possible, while keeping options open for introducing additional species if needed.

"We are considering some small-scale planting or enhancement later in the season, depending on how the area develops, but at the moment, it's more about observing, managing and giving the existing seedbank a chance to come through."

Get involved! Email Josef Williams, senior project officer: josef.williams@tcv.org.uk





Braidburn's butterflies



One of our members has noticed a big increase in the number of butterflies in the park – their favourite being the Orange-tip. The male has orange-tipped forewings (Image 1) while the female has black-tipped forewings (Image 2). Both have a stained glass pattern on the underside of their hindwings (Image 3).

This member kindly shared some photos of this butterfly, as well as Comma (Image 4) and Peacock (Image 5) butterflies, taken in the spring last year.

We love hearing reports of local wildlife visiting the area, particularly when there's photo or video evidence! Keep us informed while also being mindful and respectful of wildlife and their natural habitats.



Tree-mendous news

In the previous edition of Valley Voice, we shared details of our planned Tree Trail, featuring 13 trees: **Aspen, Cherry, Hornbeam, Wheatley Elm, Rowan, Swamp Cypress, Maple, Horse Chestnut, two types of Willow, Birch, Pine and Oak.**

We're happy to confirm that plaques to help identify these trees have now been ordered and will be installed in the near future.

Staying informed

As you may know, *Valley Voice* is published twice a year. With each edition four pages long, we can't include everything (as much as we'd like to).

If you'd like us to cover anything in particular in our next edition, let us know via email. In the mean time, we encourage you to follow us on Facebook to review past posts and remain subscribed for future updates.

